



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Joseph A. MacDougald et al.

Application No.: 10/659,640

Filed: September 10, 2003

For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING
DENTAL RESTORATIONS

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) Group Art Unit: 1732

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) Examiner: LECHERT JR,
STEPHEN J

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) Confirmation No.: 5238
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RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In complete response to the outstanding Official Action issued on June 21, 2005, Applicants offer the following remarks.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 24-26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Brodkin et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,322,728). For the following reasons, however, Applicants most respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Brodkin et al. does describe a method of making dental material by mixing a ceramic powder with a polymer and dispensing the mixture to build a form on a platform. The Examiner concludes that the method is anticipated because the *Brodkin et al.* reference "teaches the method steps." However, this is not believed to be the case.

Claim 24 specifically recites mixing ceramic powder and one or more media together to achieve homogeneity throughout the mixture. That homogeneous mixture is then dispensed onto a platform to form a dental material. The media